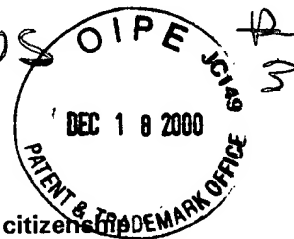


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DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that: My residence, post-office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe that I am an original, first, and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

COLUMN PARTITION

the specification of which was filed **28 September 2000** as application **09/672,252**.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 USC 119 of any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application

Country	Number	Filing Date	Priority claimed
Germany	19947246.7	30 September 1999	Yes

I hereby appoint as attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business connected therewith:

Herbert Dubno, Reg. 19,752; **Andrew Wilford**, Reg. 26,597; **Jonathan Myers**, Reg. 26,963 and each of them individually.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 USC 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first inventor: **Helmut JANSEN**

Inventor's signature *Helmut Jansen* Date: *23.10.2000*

Residence: **Dormagen, Germany**

Citizen of Germany

Post-office Address: **Kemmerlingstrasse 16, D-41542 Dormagen, Germany**

Full name of second inventor:

Jochen LEBEN

Inventor's signature *X* *Jochen Leben* Date: *X*

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Citizen of Germany

Post-office Address: **Norfer Strasse 4, D-40221 Düsseldorf, Germany**

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Ser. No. 09/672,252

Full name of third inventor:

Thomas RIETFORT

Inventor's signature

[Signature]

[Signature]

Date:

X 23.10.2000

Residence: **Bottrop, Germany**

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Full name of fourth inventor:

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Inventor's signature

X

[Signature]

Date:

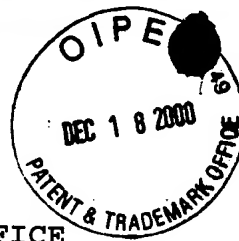
X 29.11.2000

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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor Helmut JANSEN et al
Patent App. 09/672,252
Filed 28 September 2000
For COLUMN PARTITION
Art Unit Not known
Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

STATEMENT AS TO REPRESENTATION

With respect to the above-identified application, the undersigned hereby authorizes the United States Attorneys and Agents named in the Declaration accompanying the application or in any Declaration subsequently filed in the application to expect and follow instructions from:

Cohausz, Hannig, Dawidowicz & Partner
Postfach 14 01 61
D-40071 Düsseldorf
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for any action to be taken in the United States Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the above-mentioned United States Attorneys or Agents and the undersigned. In the event of change in the person or persons from whom instructions may be taken, the above-mentioned United States Attorneys or Agents named in such Declaration will be so notified by the undersigned.

Date: 23.10.2000

Signed: H. Jansen
Helmut JANSEN

Date: 23.10.2000

Signed: J. Leben
Jochen LEBEN

Date: 23.10.2000

Signed: Thomas Rielfort
Thomas RIETFORT

Date: 22.11.2000

Signed: Egon Zich
Egon ZICH